



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

January 3, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Legislative Oversight Committee Members  
Commission for MH/DD/SAS  
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs  
State Consumer Family Advisory Committee Chairs  
Advocacy Organizations and Groups  
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
County Managers  
County Board Chairs  
North Carolina Council of Community Programs  
State Facility Directors  
Area Program Directors  
Area Program Board Chairs  
DHHS Division Directors  
Provider Organizations  
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups  
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups  
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

**From:** Mike Moseley

**Re: Communication Bulletin #052 – Federal Approval  
of Enhanced Benefits**



It is my great pleasure to notify you that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) which the Department of Health and Human Services submitted to provide for new and enhanced services for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders. It is our intent to implement these new services no later than March 31, 2006. As promised in Communication Bulletin # 46, dated August 3, 2005, we will consult with key stakeholders and announce a definite date for implementation in the next week.

The approval of the new service definitions is a critical milestone in our efforts to transform the public mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services system. Along with the new Community Alternatives Program waiver for individuals with MR/DD (CAP-MR/DD) that was implemented September 1, 2005, these new definitions provide the clinical foundation for transforming the community service array and providing more effective services to consumers. Many of the new definitions represent evidence-based best practices or provide a platform through which evidence-based, emerging and promising practices can be delivered. With the implementation of these new definitions North Carolina will, for the first time, have services available for adult substance abusers at every level of care outlined in the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria. The new service array is also designed to improve consumers' access to services and increase consumers' choice of provider since all providers of these services will directly enroll in the Medicaid program.



The new service definitions have been through a very lengthy review process and have been the subject of intense negotiations with CMS. We know that the lengthy approval process has been stressful for Local Management Entities, providers and the consumers we all seek to serve. We are very pleased to be able to begin the New Year with this very positive news.

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom  
Dr. Allen Dobson  
Allyn Guffey  
Dan Stewart  
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team  
DMH/DD/SAS Staff  
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Rich Slipsky  
Wayne Williams  
Kaye Holder  
Carol Duncan Clayton  
Patrice Roesler  
Coalition 2001 Chair

